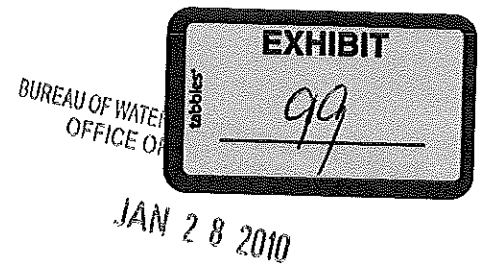


Mr. Paul E. Stacey
Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse
Planning and Standards Division
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127



January 24, 2010

Dear Mr. Stacey,

I am a Unionville resident and Board Member of the Farmington Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited writing to express my support for the Proposed Stream Flow Standards and Regulations.

As a fisherman who understands the importance of clean water and a balanced ecosystem, I am also a consumer who appreciates the clean water we and surrounding towns enjoy in the Farmington River Valley. As one who has noted the fights over water rights in the West for many years and the problems relating to the Colorado River's use, I believe it is time to protect all the rivers in Connecticut and to limit groundwater pumping which may threaten aquifers. Aquatic insects are the first line of defense against water quality problems, and a drought-induced reduction would lessen our ability to detect such problems.

I remember only too clearly the problem on the Fenton River several years ago and am concerned about how difficult it will be to restore the aquatic insect and trout populations in the affected section of the river. The Farmington River has suffered similar periods of drought in years prior to 2009, and the 50 cfs minimum flows are critical to sustaining the trout population in this wonderful resource. In fact, 50 cfs is probably too low, but individualized flow management under the proposed regs should better meet the needs and requirements of every river. The fact that streams which are not stocked are currently not protected by existing regulations means that native fish can be at risk of overuse in dry periods, so these regulations should protect the fragile ecology of non-stocked bodies of water also.

Perhaps the most distressing aspect about the risk of low flows in the summer is the fact that Trout Unlimited has worked for years to protect water quality and provide suitable habitat for trout and other aquatic species. While we have made real gains in increasing wild and native trout population levels, all of this progress can quickly be erased with one or two successive years of low flow conditions. Thereafter it would take years to recover, and the subsequent loss would have a significant impact on fishermen and the economy of towns along the rivers. These proposed regs will greatly help conservationists' efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William F. Case', written over the typed name.

William F. Case
33 Oakridge, Unionville, CT
Director
Farmington Valley Chapter, Trout Unlimited